NexStar·3

EXTERNAL 3.5" HARD DRIVE ENCLOSURE

USER MANUAL

VANTEC

www.vantecusa.com

Package Contents:

NexStar 3 External 3.5" SATA to USB/eSATA/Firewire Enclosure:

- Driver CD
- User Manual
- NexStar 3 External 3.5" HDD Enclosure (Model: NST-360UFS-BK)
- Power Adaptor
- Firewire Cable
- USB Cable
- eSATA Cable
- eSATA Bracket
- Vertical Stand
- Screws

TRADEMARKS

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1. Introduction:

Form and functionality collide with style in the NexStar 3 External Hard Drive Enclosure from Vantec. With its mirror finish, sleek curves and bold colors, the Vantec NexStar 3 stands out from the crowd. The sturdy drive cage protects your hard drive while the aluminum case effectively draws away the heat, protecting your drive from overheating. The NexStar 3 utilizes USB 2.0, offering speeds up to 480Mbps, Firewire providing speeds of up to 400Mbps, or SATA with speeds of up to 3Gbps.* The NexStar 3 is the ideal way to store your personal data in an enclosure that matches your style!

NST-360UFS-BK

2. Specifications/Features:

NexStar 3 External 3.5" HDD Enclosure:

Specifications:

- Interface: SATA to USB 2.0 / eSATA / Firewire
- Dimension: 206mm x 123mm x 33mm

Features:

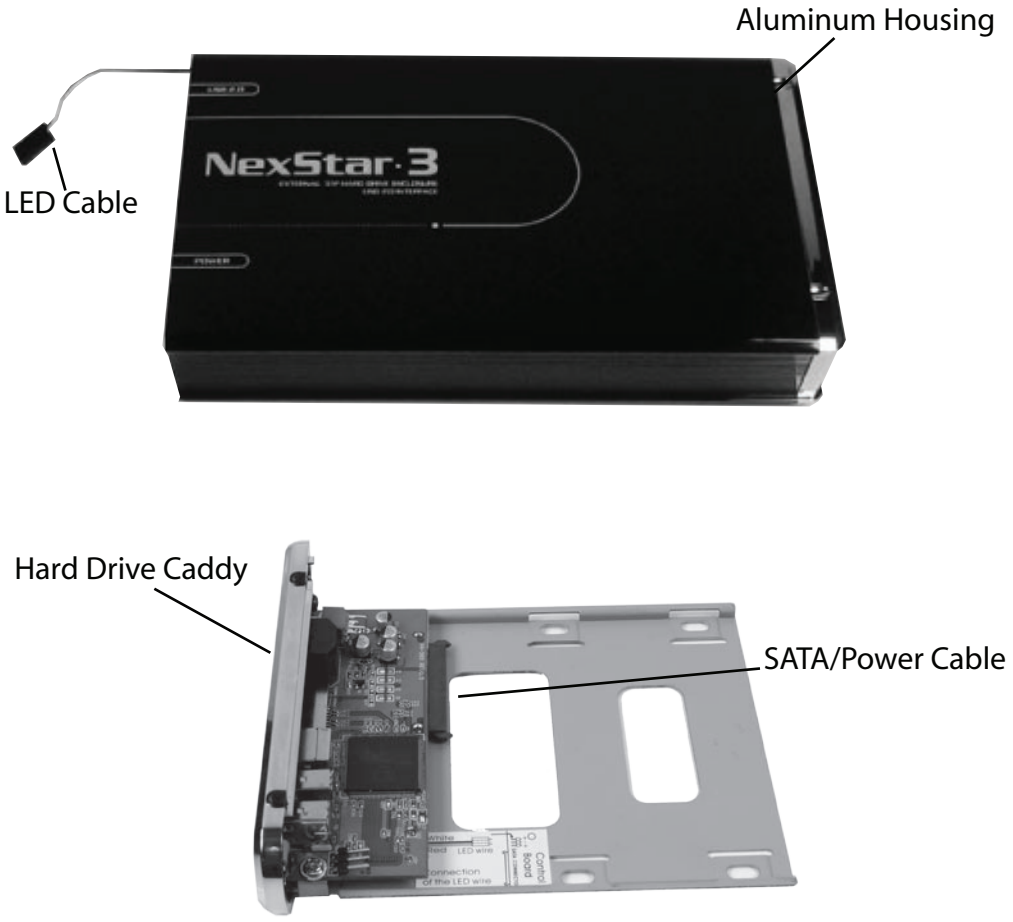
- Aluminum casing cools down your hard drive
- Transfer Rates Up to 12Mbps With USB 1.1
- Transfer Rates Up to 480Mbps With USB 2.0
- Transfer Rates Up to 3GBPS With eSATA
- Transfer Rates Up to 400Mbps With Firewire
- Hot-swappable: Plug and play without rebooting!
- Attractive blue LED indicates power/HDD activity

3. System Requirements:

- Intel Pentium II 350MHz-compatible or Apple G3 processor and greater
- Microsoft Windows 2000/XP/Vista or Mac OS 8.6 and greater
- USB port, internal SATA port, eSATA port, or Firewire port.
- For USB 2.0 speeds, the system must support USB 2.0 specifications
- CD Rom drive (if drivers are needed)

4. Parts Layout:

NexStar 3 External 3.5" HDD Enclosure:



5. Installation:

NexStar 3 External 3.5" HDD Enclosure:

5.1. Hardware Installation:

Preparing the hard drive:

1) Set the hard drive jumpers to MASTER or SINGLE DRIVE ONLY. Please refer to the documentation included with your hard drive for information on how to accomplish this.

Preparing the NexStar 3:

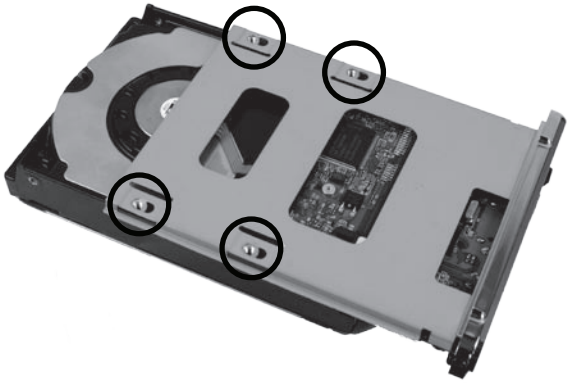
1) Remove the side of the NexStar 3 with the power and USB connection ports. If it has previously been screwed in place, remove the screws first.
2) Carefully slide out the side approximately 3 inches.

3) Unplug the red and white cable for the LED.
4) Slide out the rest of the side.

Installing the hard drive in the NexStar 3:

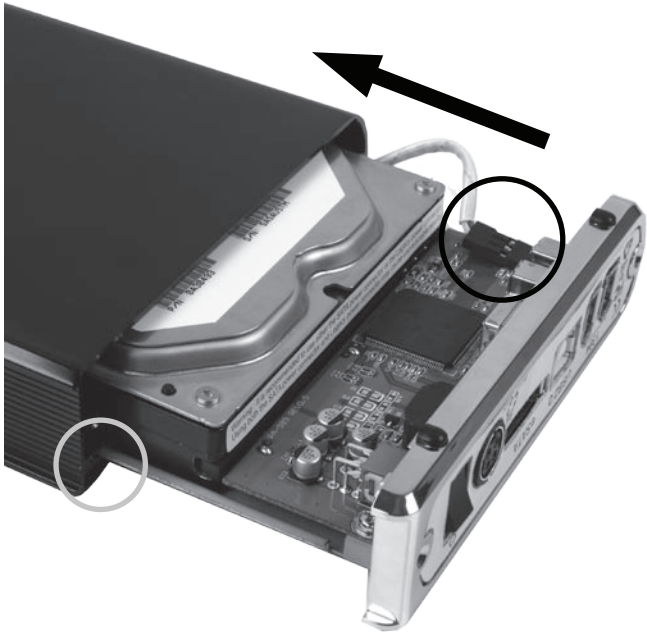
1) Connect the SATA cable and power cable to the hard drive as pictured below.

2) Align the hard drive mounting holes with the holes on the back of the drive caddy. See picture below.



3) Secure the hard drive onto the drive caddy with the screws provided.

4) Insert the drive caddy back into the aluminum housing. Be sure to reconnect the LED cable before closing the unit. When reinserting the caddy, also be sure to align the top of the caddy with the guides on the housing.



Connecting the NexStar 3 to your computer:

1) Connect the type B USB connector to the NexStar 3 and the type A USB connector to an available USB 1.1/2.0 port on your system.
   Or,
   Connect the Firewire cable from an available Firewire port on your system to either Firewire port on the NexStar 3. The other Firewire port is used for chaining to other Firewire devices.
   Or,
   Connect the eSATA connector to the NexStar 3 and to the eSATA port on your system. An internal SATA port can be converted to an eSATA port with the included adapter.
2) Connect the power cable to the NexStar 3 and plug the cable into an available outlet.
3) Turn on the NexStar 3 via the power switch.
4) Your operating system should detect the NexStar 3 and automatically install the necessary drivers (if you have MacOS 8.6, you will need to install drivers). Once your operating system finishes setting up the NexStar 3, it will mount your hard drive. On Mac OS systems, the new volume should appear on the desktop. On a Windows PC, the new volume will appear under My Computer.

NOTE: For new hard drives, you will need to initialize and partition your hard drive before it will appear in Windows Explorer or on your Mac desktop. Please refer to your hard drive manufacturer's documentation or read the "Creating a New Partition" section of this manual.

5) Your NexStar 3 External Hard Drive is now ready for use.

5.2. Driver Installation:

Windows 2000/XP/Vista

1) No drivers are necessary when using Windows 2000/XP/Vista. If the hard drive does not appear under My Computer, be sure to partition your hard drive.

Mac OS 9.0 or later:

1) No drivers are necessary when using Mac OS 9.0 or later. If the hard drive does not appear on the desktop, be sure to partition your hard drive.

Mac OS 8.6:

1) Unplug the NexStar 3 if you currently have it connected.
2) USB Mass Storage Support 1.3.5 must be installed on your system. If it is not, you can download the USB Mass Storage Support 1.3.5 from the Apple Software Updates website: http://www.apple.com/support
3) Follow the direction associated with the USB Mass Storage Support driver to install
4) Repeat the steps listed under "Connecting the NexStar 3 to your computer."

6. Disconnecting the NexStar 3:

NexStar 3 External 3.5" HDD Enclosure:

> Warning: NEVER remove the NexStar 3 while the hard drive is in use. Doing so may corrupt the data on the hard drive or damage the hard drive, NexStar 3, or computer.

Windows 2000/XP/Vista:

1) Make sure all operations using the hard drive within the NexStar 3 has ceased.
2) Close any windows and programs pertaining to the NexStar 3.
3) Double click the green "Unplug or Eject Hardware" icon in the system tray and select [Safely Remove Hardware]. Select the device you wish to remove and click on [Stop]. The system should prompt, "It is now safe to remove the USB device." If not, wait for any programs still using the device to finish and try again.
4) Turn off the NexStar 3.
5) Unplug the USB cable or Firewire cable from the system.

Mac OS:

1) Make sure all operations using the hard drive within the NexStar 3 has ceased.
2) Close any windows and programs pertaining to the NexStar 3.
3) From the Desktop, drag the NexStar 3 hard drive to the trash.
4) Turn off the NexStar 3.
5) Unplug the USB cable or Firewaire cable from the system.

7. Creating A New Partition:

Note: Most hard drives should come with a CD that includes its installation program. If not, a download should be available on the manufacturers website. The best way to partition a new hard drive is by using the manufacturers program. However, if that is not possible, please try the following instead (if using Mac OS 9 or below, please refer to your hard drive documentation for information on formatting/partitioning the hard drive):

Warning: Doing the following will erase any existing data on the drive. If the drive is damaged and you wish to recover the data, continuing may overwrite the existing information!

Windows ME:

1) You will need to use the FDISK utility that is included under MS-DOS. Please refer to Microsoft Knowledge Base Article – 255867 for complete instructions on how to use FDISK. (http://support.microsoft.com/support/kb/articles/Q255/8/67.ASP)
2) Once complete, you should now be able to see the drive in Windows Explorer.

Windows 2000/XP/Vista:

1) Right click on "My Computer" and choose Manage.
2) Under "Storage" on the LEFT pane, select Disk Management
3) Windows should now give you the option to initialize the disk. If not, locate the new drive, right click on the new disk (where it reads "Disk #") and choose Initialize. (This step may not be required for some hard drives.)
4) Go through the wizard.
5) Once complete, locate your hard drive in the bottom right pane. Right click on the area with a status bar (to the right of the "Disk #" area) and choose New Partition.
6) Follow the directions of the wizard. The recommended partition type is "primary" and the recommended file system is "NTFS." Please note that Windows 2000/XP/Vista limits FAT32 partitions to only 32GB. Also, Windows 98 is not capable of reading the NTFS file system.
7) Once complete, you should now be able to see the drive in Windows Explorer.

Mac OS X 10.x.x:

Initializing a Hard Drive:

If you are using a new hard drive, you may need to initialize it first. You can initialize your internal hard drive using a program called Drive Setup, which is on the Mac OS CD that came with your computer.

1. Start up your computer from the Mac OS CD.
2. Locate the Utilities folder on the Mac OS CD and double-click it to open the folder.
3. Double-click the Drive Setup icon to open the program.
4. In the list of drives, select the drive you want to initialize.
5. Click Initialize.

To format your hard drive with Mac OS Extended format, a method of formatting hard drives that allows for more efficient use of hard drive storage space, follow the steps below:

1. Click Custom Setup.
2. Select the desired partitioning scheme.
3. Open the Type pop-up menu in the Volume Info area and choose Mac OS Extended Format.
4. Resize the volumes if desired.
5. When ready, click OK.
6. Click Initialize.

If initialization fails, do the following:

1. Choose Initialization Options from the Functions menu.
2. Click the checkbox next to "Low level format", then click OK. Choosing this option adds significant time to the initialization process.

Mac OS X 10.x.x:

Formatting a Hard Drive:

1. Start the Disk Utility tool (under Applications)
2. Select the new hard drive you are trying to install
3. Click on the "Erase" tab
4. Choose a volume format and assign a name to the new drive.
5. Click on Erase.
6. Once complete, your new hard drive should be mounted on your desktop.

Note: If the hard drive will not mount on your system, format the drive with a FAT32 or NTFS partition first through a PC system. Once formatted, connect the NexStar Enclosure to your Mac and run the Disk Utility tool again. You should now be able to format the drive into a Mac partition and mount the drive

8. Troubleshooting/FAQ:

NexStar 3 External 3.5" HDD Enclosure:

Q. What should the jumper settings on my hard drive be set to?
A. We recommend the hard drive be set to MASTER.

Q. My computer recognizes the NexStar 3, but it does not assign a drive letter to it.
A. You are probably using a brand new hard drive. If not, then your computer may not be able to recognize the partition on the hard drive because it is damaged or not a valid format. Please refer to the section "Creating A New Partition" for information on how to create a useable partition on your drive.

Q. My computer sometimes recognizes the NexStar 3, but sometimes gives me errors.
A. If your computer is giving you problems with the NexStar 3, be sure to connect the USB cable to a rear port, directly off the motherboard or USB PCI card. The cables connecting front USB ports are not always properly shielded and cannot properly handle USB 2.0 speeds, thereby corrupting the signal between the NexStar 3 and the computer.

Q. Why is the data on my hard drive corrupted?
A. Connecting your hard drive to the NexStar 3 is just like connecting a hard drive to the inside of your computer. The NexStar 3 itself will not corrupt your data. If your data has become corrupt, it is likely caused by the removal of the NexStar 3 while data was still being written to the hard drive. CAUTION: Never remove the NexStar 3 while data is being written to the hard drive! Doing so may cause the hard drive to become corrupt. Make sure all applications being run off the disk and all files in use are no longer in use before removing the unit.

Q. Why can't I copy files larger than 4GB onto my NexStar 3?

A. You have probably formatted the hard drive in the FAT32 file system. FAT32 limits the file sizes to 4GB maximum. The NTFS file system does not have this limitation.

9. Warranty:

The NexStar 3 comes with a 1 year limited warranty (90 day parts). If your unit should become defective within that time frame, please go to http://www.vantecusa.com for information on how to receive warranty exchange or repair. Cosmetic defects and missing parts are not covered under this warranty. Please check the contents of the unit to make sure you received all parts. Also, check for any cosmetic flaws. If any parts are missing or if there are cosmetic defects, please contact the retailer from which you purchased the unit immediately and ask for a replacement.

10. Contact:

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